NOTICE OF A CITIZENS' INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TRUCK INFORMATION STATION AND/OR TRUCK TURN-AROUND LOCATIONS ALONG U.S. 64 / N.C. 28 BETWEEN U.S. 23/441 IN FRANKLIN AND N.C. 106 IN HIGHLANDS

WBS #: 42365.1.1 Macon County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Citizens Informational Workshop on Thursday, September 22, 2011, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Cullasaja Gorge Rescue and Fire Department, located at 104 River Road, in Franklin.

The purpose of this informal, open house-style public meeting is to display maps showing four possible locations along the U.S. 64/N.C. 28 corridor between Franklin and Highlands, for the proposed construction of truck information stations/truck turn-around locations and obtain public input. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer any questions. The opportunity to submit written comments will also be provided and is encouraged. Citizens may attend anytime during the above-mentioned hours. There will not be a formal presentation.

The purpose of this project is to provide information regarding alternate truck routes and the locations for trucks to turn around. Currently, large trucks are prohibited to use the segment of U.S. 64/N.C. 28 in Macon County, but some trucks continue to use this portion of roadway, despite warning signs. The existing roadway is a narrow, two-lane road with sharp curves and a steep grade. NCDOT wants to provide an option where truckers can obtain alternate route information and safely turn around if necessary.

The four locations/ options being considered for large trucks travelling this portion of highway are: 1. Construction of additional ramps (pull-overs) at the interchange of U.S. 23/441 and N.C. 28 in Franklin; 2. A truck turn-around at the intersection of U.S. 64/N.C. 28 and Deal Farm Circle (State Road 1565); 3. A truck turn-around at the intersection of U.S. 64/N.C. 28 and Walnut Creek Road (State Road 1533); and 4. A truck turn-around at the intersection of U.S. 64/N.C. 28 and Chowan Drive in Highlands.

Anyone desiring additional information regarding the proposed project may contact Zahid Baloch, Project Planning Engineer, by phone: (919) 707-6012 or by email: zbaloch@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Baloch as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.